

Application No.: 09/808911

Docket No.: KAQ-002

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application of which claims 1, 16, 20, 26 and 27 are independent. Claims 1, 3-7, 16, 20 and 26 have been amended. Claims 27-31 have been added. No new matter has been added.

**Objection to the Specification**

Applicants have amended the first paragraph appearing on page 4 of the application to provide the omitted explanation for the acronym (PMT) noted by the Examiner.

**Claim Objections**

Applicants have amended claims 4-7 to correct they typographical error noted by the Examiner.

**Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-3, 8, 11, 13 and 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Fortenberry et al (United States Patent No.: 6, 005, 939, hereafter "Fortenberry"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

**Summary of the Claimed Invention**

The claimed invention provides a user profile infrastructure where user profiles are accessible via a central location. The user profiles may contain information that is accessible by multiple service providers. The data in a user profile may be dispersed over multiple databases or other storage locations. Service providers that are authorized may request and retrieve the information via the infrastructure without the user getting involved. As there is only a single user profile per user, changes need only to be made via the user profile infrastructure to ensure that the user profile is kept current. A user profile may be modified by the user or authorized service providers. The user may have complete control over the user profile and may specify the information to be included in the user profile. The user may also have control over the permissions that specify what clients have permission to access information in the user profile.

Application No.: 09/808911

Docket No.: KAQ-002

The permissions may specify the type of access that is provided to each client. Permissions may be specified not only for user profiles as a whole but also for individual fields within user profiles.

#### Summary of Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended the independent claims to clarify the scope of the claimed invention. Thus claim 1 has been amended to indicate that a request to reference information in the user profile is received from a non-user party that has been specified in the first and second set of permissions. Claim 1 has additionally been amended to indicate that the request is responded to by transmitting the requested information to the requesting party. Claim 16 has been amended to indicate that in response to a request, authorized information is transmitted to a non-user party that is a member of a group indicated in the user profile as having access to the authorized information. Claim 20 has been amended to indicate that a preference management server provides access to the user profile and that the fields of information in the user profile are stored in multiple remote locations. Claim 26 has similarly been amended to indicate that the fields of information referenced by the user profile are stored in multiple remote locations. New claims 27-31 have been added.

#### Summary of Fortenberry

Fortenberry discusses a mechanism for obtaining user information in order to conduct secure transactions on the Internet without having to enter the information multiple times. Fortenberry also discusses a mechanism for providing secure access to the data over the Internet. A passport containing user-defined information with various security levels is stored in a secure server apparatus. A user process instructs the secure server apparatus (referred to as a passport agent in Fortenberry) to release data from the passport to a recipient and forwards the recipient a key to unlock the passport information.

#### Argument

Fortenberry fails to disclose all of the elements of Applicants independent claims 1 and 20 as amended. Accordingly, the rejections directed to those claims and the claims dependent thereon are respectfully traversed.

Application No.: 09/808911

Docket No.: KAQ-002

Claim 1 as amended includes the step of receiving a request from a non-user party to reference information contained within the user profile. If the requestor has been specified by the first and second set of permissions, the response to the request transmits the requested information to the requesting non-user party. As identified in the background, Applicants claimed invention is directed towards allowing various service providers to personalize content for a user. Rather than relying on just their own proprietary user profile the service providers may consult the PMT server in order to get updated profile information. In contrast, Fortenberry discloses a process whereby a user requests a transaction with a vendor, supplies the vendor a key (for future decryption, and then the user requests that the passport agent send the passport to the vendor. The vendor uses the key provided by the user to decrypt the passport (See col. 6, lines 15-36). The entire process in Fortenberry is heavily dependent on and requires the participation of the user. Since claim 1 requires the receipt of a request for information from a non-user party, Fortenberry fails to disclose all of the elements of claims 1-3, 8, 11, 13 and Applicants request the rejections directed to those requests be withdrawn.

Claim 20 has been amended to indicate that a preference management server provides access to the user profile and that the fields of information in the user profile are stored in multiple remote locations. Fortenberry discusses a single repository of information for user information that is redundancy free, (i.e.: not replicated elsewhere)(see Summary of Invention col. 1, lines 51-65. Fortenberry touts the single integrated database as providing security benefits. In contrast, Applicants claimed invention is directed towards a centralized profile management process (the PMT server) that provides a centralized location for distributed user profile information. This allows one service provider to check back with the PMT server and identify additional or updated user profile information stored elsewhere. Since Fortenberry fails to disclose all of the elements of claims 20-25, Applicants request the rejections directed to those requests be withdrawn.

#### Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fortenberry in view of Kramer et al (United States Patent No.: 5, 414, 852, hereafter "Kramer"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Application No.: 09/808911

Docket No.: KAQ-002

The Examiner cited Kramer as disclosing read, write and delete access. However, Kramer does not teach or suggest the missing limitation of claim 1 of receiving a request from a non-user party to access the subdivision in the user profile. Accordingly Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejections for claims 4-5 and 7.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fortenberry in view of Siefert et al (US 2002/0194179, hereafter "Siefert"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner cited Siefert as disclosing searching for user profiles. However, Siefert does not teach or suggest the missing limitation of claim 1 of receiving a request from a non-user party to access the subdivision in the user profile. Accordingly Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejections for claim 6.

Claims 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fortenberry in view of Hayes, Jr et al (US 2001/0011341, hereafter "Hayes"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Examiner cited Hayes as teaching a set of permissions containing a list of parties that may access either the profile or field data and further teaching wherein the defined groups of parties are provided for on the permission groups. However, Hayes does not teach or suggest the missing limitation of claim 1 of receiving a request from a non-user party to access the subdivision in the user profile. Accordingly Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejections directed to claims 9-10.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fortenberry in view of Ramamurthy et al (US 2002/0091745, hereafter "Ramamurthy"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner cited Ramamurthy as teaching subdivisions which are organized hierarchically and wherein the subdivisions contain additional subdivisions. However, Hayes does not teach or suggest the missing limitation of claim 1 of receiving a request from a non-user

Application No.: 09/808911

Docket No.: KAQ-002

party to access the subdivision in the user profile. Accordingly Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection directed to claim 14.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fortenberry in view of Regnier et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,134, 549, hereafter "Regnier"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Examiner cited Regnier as defining groups which have a permission access set resulting from a set algebraic operation performed on at least two groups. However, Regnier does not teach or suggest the missing limitation of claim 1 of receiving a request from a non-user party to access the subdivision in the user profile. Accordingly Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection directed to claim 15.

Claims 12 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Fortenberry. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 12 is dependent upon claim 1. Applicants respectfully reassert the above arguments and suggest claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 16 was amended to indicate that in response to a request from a non-user party, authorized information is transmitted to the non-user party that is a member of a group indicated in the user profile as having access to the authorized information. As previously noted, in Fortenberry, the user sends a request to the passport agent requesting that the passport (containing user profile information) be sent to a vendor. The vendor uses a key previously supplied by the user to decrypt the information. The Fortenberry system is a different system than the claimed invention where the vendor contacts the PMT server and is not required to receive a key from the user first. Regarding the rejection of claim 19, the Examiner's reliance on col. 8, lines 34-40 is misplaced as the sequence of steps clearly illustrates that the user must request the passport be sent to the vendor, and that the vendor must decrypt the passport with the key previously provided by the user before attempting contact with the passport agent (See Figure 5). Claims 17-19 include all of the elements of independent claim 16 and are therefore

**Application No.: 09/808911**

**Docket No.: KAQ-002**

not taught or suggested by Fortenberry. Accordingly, Applicants request the allowance of claims 16-19.

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fortenberry in view of Hayes in further view of Brown et al (United States Patent No.: 6, 658, 415), hereafter "Brown"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 26 has been amended to indicate that the information in the user profile is stored in a multiple locations with at least two of the plurality of locations being remotely located from the user profile and each other. As set forth above, Fortenberry lacks this limitation. The Examiner cited Hayes as teaching group access permissions and Brown as teaching restricting access to content based on a schema. However, neither Brown nor Hayes discloses the newly added limitation. Accordingly Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection for claim 26.

Application No.: 09/808911

Docket No.: KAQ-002

**CONCLUSION**

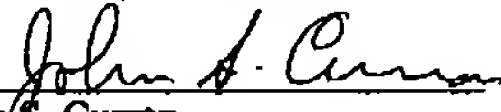
In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe a two month extension fee in the amount of \$215.00 is due with this statement as well as a fee in the amount of \$89.00 for the new claims. Please charge \$304.00 and any additional fees that may be due to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. KAQ-002 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: November 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By



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